REMARKS

Re-examination and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that dependent claim 3 contains allowable subject matter, and that the claim would be allowable if it is placed into independent form. In view of amendments made to independent claim 1 in the present amendment, Applicant believes that the application has been placed in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant has retained claim 3 as a dependent claim at the present time. However, Applicant expressly reserves the right to amend claim 3 to place it in independent form at a later time.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph rejection of claim 2. In setting forth this rejection, the Examiner asserts that the specification fails to provide a disclosure for plural demultiplexing sections and plural retrieval sections.

Applicant respectfully submits that support for plural demultiplexing sections and plural retrieval sections may be found, inter alia, at page 13, lines 12-22 of the filed application. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the specification provides support for the claimed subject matter to enable one skilled in the art to make and/or use the invention. Accordingly, the examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this ground of rejection.

The Examiner further rejects claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. By the current amendment, Applicant amends claim 2, paying particular attention to the concerns raised by the Examiner. In view of the present amendments to claim 2, Applicant submits that the ground for the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejection no longer exists, and respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection of what appears to be claims 1, 2, 19-23 and 27 as being obvious over NAGATA. In this regard, Applicant notes that paragraph 6 of the detailed Action indicates that claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102. However, on pages 5 and 6 of the Detailed Action, the Examiner proceeds to set forth grounds for the rejection of claims 2, 19-23 and 27 under this section. Accordingly, Applicant believes that claims 1, 2, 19-23 and 27, and not just claim 1 (indicated in paragraph 6 of the Detailed Action), are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102. The Examiner is respectfully requested to confirmation this matter in the next official communication.

Applicant submits that NAGATA is directed only to a time shift reproduction operation, and fails to disclose or even suggest Applicant's retrieval operation recited in, for example, claim 1. Applicant submits that NAGATA implements the time shift reproduction operation utilizing only time information in the GOP of the data stream.

On the other hand, Applicant's invention, as defined in claim 1, is based on the

premise that a data stream subjected to processing includes video data, audio data, and identification data, and multiplexing sections are provided with an additional function of demultiplexing the identification data. In particular, the first demultiplexing section of Applicant's invention is configured to demultiplex video data and audio data from the data stream, and output these data. The second demultiplexing section is configured to demultiplex only identification data from the data stream. In other words, the first demultiplexing section and the second demultiplexing section implement different demultiplexing functions. Applicant submits that at least this feature is lacking from NAGATA.

Furthermore, Applicant submits that the first demultiplexer 22 of NAGATA does not access the recording device 26 in which the desired program (e.g., data) is recorded in advance. On the other hand, the first and second demultiplexing sections of the instant invention accesses the storage section at the same time. Accordingly, Applicant submits that an additional ground distinction between NAGATA and Applicant's claimed invention.

By the current amendment, Applicant amends independent claim 1 to clarify the above-discussed features. As at least these features are submitted to be lacking from the applied art of record, Applicant submits that the ground for the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection no longer exists. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection.

Applicant also respectfully traverses the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection of what appears to be claims 1, 2, 19-23 and 27, as being obvious over TAKASHIMIZU in view of BARTON. In this regard, Applicant notes that the rejection incorrectly indicates that the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection is with respect to claims 1-3, 19-13 and 27, and that the claims only rejected over TAKASHIMIZU. However, Applicant notes that the Examiner has indicated that claim 3 contains allowable subject matter. Further, Applicants note that claims 13-18 are withdrawn, and thus, can not be subject to a prior art rejection. Further, page 8 of the Detailed Action refers to the combination of TAKASHIMIZU and BARTON. Accordingly, Applicant concludes that the Examiner intended to apply the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection with respect to claims 1, 2, 19-23 and 27, and with respect to the combination of TAKASHIMIZU and BARTON. The Examiner is respectfully requested to confirm this matter in the next official communication.

According to a review of TAKASHIMIZU, a first demultiplexer 404, a second demultiplexer 413, and a recording/reproducing means 423 are disclosed. A signal in which a plurality of programs are multiplexed is received by an antenna, and a desired program is demultiplexed in the first demultiplexer 404 and input to MPEG2 decoder 405. When data is recorded and reproduced, a second demultiplexer 413 demultiplexes the desired program and inputs the program to a recording/reproducing section 423, and, upon reproduction, inputs the program into

MPEG2 decoder 405.

However, Applicant submits that TAKASHIMIZU does not disclose or suggest, for example, Applicant's claimed retrieval section. In fact, Applicant submits that TAKASHIMIZU does not disclose any retrieval operation.

BARTON discloses a multimedia storage and display system that enables a user to watch a television broadcast program and at the same time replay earlier scenes in the program. According to this document, an MPEG stream is stored on a hard disk 105 via a media switch 102. If the user is watching TV, a replay/display operation is executed.

However, Applicant submits that BARTON does not disclose or suggest Applicant's claimed configuration, which operates a first demultiplxer that executes demultiplexing for reproduction use and a second demultiplexer that executes demultiplexing for retrieval use in parallel (e.g., at the same time).

Thus, even if one attempted to combine the teachings of the applied references in the manner suggested by the examiner, Applicant submits that one would fail to arrive at the instant invention, as defined by the claims, as such a combination would fail to include the above-discussed features.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that neither TAKASHIMIZU or BURTON, either individually or in the combination suggested by the Examiner, disclose Applicant's claimed feature of reading program data from a storage device and

using the data in reproducing the program, reading the same or other program data while the program is being reproduced and extracting identification data and using this identification data in the retrieval operation.

By the current amendment, Applicant has amended the claims to clarify the above feature. In view of the present amendment, Applicant submits that the ground for the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection no longer exists. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this ground of rejection, to indicate the allowability of the pending claims, and to pass this application to issue.

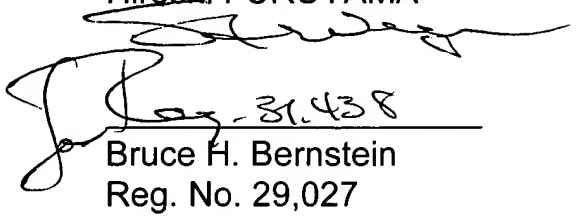
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In view of the fact that none of the art of record, whether considered alone or in combination, discloses or suggests the present invention as now defined by the pending claims, and in further view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the Examiner's action and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested and are believed to be appropriate.

Should the Commissioner determine that an extension of time is required in order to render this response timely and/or complete, a formal request for an extension of time, under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), is herewith made in an amount equal to the time period required to render this response timely and/or complete. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any required extension of time fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17 to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

If there should be any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
Hiroshi FURUYAMA



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